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The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"The answer is that I have not got any more information than that contained in the appendix to this question."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know what is meant by 'fitness'? Is it physical fitness, or mental fitness or any other thing?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"General fitness."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"In that case, may I know if the Principal of this Institute is a medical man to find out that?"

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Agency fituri.

Offences relative to the fituri dealt with by executive orders or judicial proceedings.

249 Q.—Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the nature of the crimes or offences relative to the fituri under which a number of people of the Agency tract concerned were dealt with by executive orders or through judicial proceedings, such as giving supplies to rebels, failure to give information to the Police, etc.;

(b) how many persons were arrested for each of the offences covered by the above question, and what was the punishment meted out to each of them;

(c) how many were charged before the courts; what was the status of the Magistrates or Judges who tried the cases; what was the number of acquittals on appeals, and of successful appeals; whether the accused were allowed in all cases effective opportunities for defence by vakils;

(d) whether any damage was done to property—such as destroying houses and grain stores—during the course of the operations by the Military or Police; if so, whether any returns were made of such destruction; and

(e) whether any people were dealt with by executive orders without reference to courts; if so, for what offences; and how many for each type of offence; whether any people were deported; whether any inquiries were held before the deportations were ordered; and if so, who conducted the inquiries?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) A list of persons dealt with judicially upon charges relating to the fituri is placed on the table.^a Information as to the number who appealed is not available. The Government have no reason to suppose that those who desired to be defended by vakils were in any way prevented from engaging them.

(d) The Government have not received any report of damages or any complaints.

(e) Sixty-two persons were dealt with under the Ganjam and Vizagapatam Act, 1839, and the Madras State Prisoners Regulation, 1819, for various reasons, viz., secret communication with the rebels, assisting them with supplies and money,

^a Printed as Appendix V on pages 640-653 infra.

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collecting money for them, harbouring them, suppression of information about their visits to the plains and communicating to them information about the police movements. One of these persons was detained under surveillance in a town and the rest were confined in jail. But all of them, except two whose cases are under consideration, have now been released. Action in these cases was taken after due inquiries by the Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam.

Depressed Classes.

Assignment of lands to depressed classes in South Kanara.

250 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to refer to answers given to question No. 561 on 10th October 1924 and be pleased to state—

(a) why as many as 1,228·68 acres have been reserved for the depressed classes in Mangalore taluk alone, while only 175·20 acres have been applied for and 37·04 acres been granted;

(b) what is the total area reserved for depressed classes in the whole district of South Kanara; and

(c) how many acres out of it have been applied for and how much was actually assigned to depressed classes?

A.—(a) 1,228·68 acres of land have been reserved in Mangalore taluk to provide for the present and prospective needs of the depressed classes. Until the Labour Department started work in the district in 1923 very few members of the depressed classes asked for land. 275·06 acres have been allotted up to date in this taluk.

(b) 17,357·36 acres.

(c) 740 acres have been applied for. Six hundred and ninety-five acres have been actually distributed.

Reservation of darkhast lands in South Kanara for assignment to the depressed classes.

251 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to refer to answers given to question No. 561 on 10th October 1924 and be pleased to state—

(a) why as many as 1,228·68 acres have been reserved for the depressed classes in Mangalore taluk alone, while only 175·20 acres have been applied for and 37·04 acres been granted;

(b) what is the total area reserved for depressed classes in the whole district of South Kanara—

(i) how many acres out of it have been applied for;

(ii) actually assigned to depressed classes; and

(c) why so many lands are reserved to depressed classes while so few are applied for by them or for them?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 250.

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Housing accommodation for labourers in the city.

252 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what steps Government have taken or propose to take for housing poorer working men in the Madras City and elsewhere, and to insist on owners of factories and mills providing sanitary houses for their labourers ;

(b) whether Government have in view any legislation to carry out these purposes ; and

(c) what measures Government are taking themselves or through local authorities to establish sanitary quarters ?

A.—(a) & (c) The Madras Town Planning Act, 1920, the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, confer adequate powers on local bodies to take action for housing workmen. As regards the depressed classes, the Government acquire lands for the provision of house-sites on the recommendation of the Labour Department. This department also attends to the sanitary improvement of the places inhabited by these classes. The Government sanctioned the construction of 200 houses for housing the labourers who lost their houses owing to incendiarism at Puliyanthope in the Madras City.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

Emigration.

Emigration of labourers to Assam.

253 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state how many labourers migrated to Assam and other places during the last occurrence of famine in Bellary district ?

A.—The Government have no information beyond that furnished in the answer to question No. 928 at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 16th October 1924.

Forests.

Grazing grounds in the Alur and Adoni taluks of Bellary district.

254 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Collector of Bellary has abolished any grazing grounds in the Alur and Adoni taluks of the Bellary district and assigned them on patta to the members of the depressed classes ; if so, in which place and to what extent ; and whether such an assignment is authorized or expedient ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the ' Sivoijama ' lands in the occupation of ryots for a long time in the same taluks have also been similarly assigned on ' pattas ' by the Collector to the depressed classes ; if so, whether the Collector's action is justifiable ;

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(c) whether it is a fact that lands held on temporary 'pattas' by the side of railway line have also been assigned in the same taluks by the Collector after the cancellation of the 'patta'; if so, whether it is permissible;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Bellary has granted village-sites situate in the union board areas in the said taluks to the depressed classes without previous consultation with or the permission of the union boards; if so, whether this is authorized under the rules;

(e) whether it is a fact that the ryots in certain villages of the said taluks have been using the hill poramboke adjoining their villages for stacking hay for a very long time and those have now been granted on patta to the depressed classes by the Collector;

(f) whether it is a fact that the members of the depressed classes are permitted to encroach upon the lands in the long enjoyment of the other 'ryots' without even a formal 'patta' issued to them; and

(g) whether 'Indian Christians' come under the head of the depressed classes; who are considered as 'depressed classes' and for what reasons; what is the basis of the classification; whether it is confined only to Adi-Dravidas; whether any poverty-test is applied in making the classification, or whether the test is only communal?

A.—(a) Eight survey numbers in Johapuram village of Alur taluk were transferred from grazing ground poramboke to ayan on 21st August 1924 for the reasons that they were surrounded by patta lands and that access to them was impossible to the general public. These lands have not yet been assigned to anybody.

(b) The answer must depend on the definition of the phrase 'a long time'. Each case is considered on its merits.

(c) to (f) The answer is in the negative.

(g) Indian Christians as a class do not come under the category of 'depressed classes,' but members of the 'depressed classes' do not necessarily cease to belong to these classes when they become Christians.

Reserved forests in the Bellary district.

255 Q.—MR. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the reserved forests in the Bellary district are unprofitable and their maintenance is causing a serious loss to the Government;

(b) whether it is proposed to abolish the District Forest office at Bellary and if so, whether the proposal has been sanctioned;

(c) whether the 'reserves' proposed to be abolished will be classified and entrusted to the management of the village forest panchayats or they will be disafforested and handed over to the Revenue Department for being thrown open for cultivation;

(d) whether any representations have been received either by the Government or in the District Forest office of Bellary for the disafforestation of the 'Hana Vasi reserve' in the Adoni taluk in the Bellary district and whether there is any such proposal pending before the Government;

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(e) whether the Military Department has declined to maintain grass reserves in the district now in its management and what the Government propose to do with such 'reserves' hereafter;

(f) whether the other grass reserves in the district have been leased to any person; if so, to whom, and when the lease will expire; what the Government propose to do with them after the expiry of the lease in question; and

(g) whether there is any proposal to hand over the grass reserves in the district to the management of forest village panchayats?

A.—(a) The figures for the last three years are as follows:—

					RS.
1921-22	..	...	...	...	— 20,986
1922-23	...	...	...	...	— 17,610
1923-24	...	...	...	...	— 14,326

(b) No specific proposal has yet been made.

(c) The reserves have been recently classified. No decision has yet been made as to their disposal.

(d) The Government understand that the District Forest Officer, Bellary, received a petition from the depressed classes of Gudikal village praying for the assignment of a portion of the Banavasi reserve. No proposal for disforesting the reserve is pending with the Government.

(e) No final decision has yet been made by the Military Farms Department.

(f) Four grass reserves have been leased to Mr. Howes, a private gentleman in Bellary. The lease expires on 30th June 1925. On the expiry of the lease, the question of handing over the reserves to panchayat management will be considered.

(g) The question of handing over suitable reserves to panchayat management will be considered.

Extension of the forest panchayat system to certain areas.

256 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to refer to the answer given to question No. 480, given on 22nd August 1924, regarding the extension of the forest panchayat system to certain areas and to obtain and give information on clauses (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8) of the question?

A.—The information is appended.^a

Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

257 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Home Member, the hon. the Law Member, the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to say—

(a) whether public servants like the Collector and the Tahsildar are prohibited by the Public Servants' Conduct Rules from offering remarks on matters of public importance when requested to do so by accredited representatives of the public;

^a Printed as Appendix VI on page 654 infra.

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(b) whether interpellating the Government in open session of the Council is the only method of getting information on matters of local importance;

(c) whether there are any rules or regulations preventing public servants from replying to letters addressed to them on matters of public and local importance or recommending them to reply to all letters, when it does not involve publishing any information of a confidential nature; and

(d) whether it is now proposed to frame any rules or issue any directions on the subject?

A.—There is ordinarily no reason why any person should not apply to the local officers for information on matters of local importance. A local officer cannot divulge the contents of correspondence or communicate any confidential information, but the rules do not deprive him of discretion to answer questions as to facts.

Tours of His Excellency the Governor.

Persons entitled to be invited to be present at the private arrival of His Excellency the Governor.

258 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) who are the persons entitled to be invited to be present at the 'private arrival' of His Excellency the Governor at a mufassal station; and

(b) who were the persons so invited by the Collector of Bellary to be present on the occasion when His Excellency visited Bellary at the end of June this year; whether any of the local Members of the Legislative Council were invited for the occasion; if not, for what reasons?

A.—(a) No one is entitled to be invited to be present at a 'private arrival' of His Excellency the Governor.

(b) In addition to certain officers on duty, the District Judge, the President of the District Board and the Chairman of the Municipality were present by invitation. No local members of the Legislative Council were invited.

Famine.

The Famine Relief and Insurance Fund.

259 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any loans were distributed from the Famine Relief and Insurance Fund at low rates in the famine of 1924 and if so, when and to what extent;

(b) the rate of interest charged on loans disbursed (i) from general revenues, (ii) from the Famine Relief and Insurance Fund, and whether any loan was given without interest;

(c) if no loans were advanced from the Famine Relief and Insurance Fund, the reason for not doing so;

(d) the various purposes for which the Famine Relief Fund is meant and whether giving loans out of it in bad seasons of scarcity and famine is not one of its objects; and

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(e) whether the Famine Relief and Insurance Funds are not to be used for starting protective irrigation works and if so, to what extent they have been so used in 1924 and where ?

A.—(a) & (c) A sum of Rs. 3 lakhs was sanctioned from the Famine Insurance Fund during the famine of 1924 for distribution to ryots in the Bellary and Anantapur districts.

(b) (i) & (ii) Seven and a half per cent. No loan was advanced without interest.

(d) & (e) The hon. Member is referred to paragraphs 7 and 8 of Schedule IV to the Devolution Rules.

No amount was spent on protective irrigation works during 1924 from the fund.

Irrigation.

Irrigation schemes under investigation, etc., in Bellary.

260 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the various irrigation schemes, major or minor, affecting the district of Bellary which are—

- (i) under investigation,
- (ii) investigated and abandoned,
- (iii) investigated and sanctioned

with the full details of the cost thereof, the extent of the wet cultivation to be brought thereunder and the possible outturn therefrom; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Bellary formerly formed the headquarters of Superintending Engineer's division, which was recently abolished, whether the Government propose to restore the abolished division in view of the special irrigation needs of the Ceded districts or whether they propose to appoint a special officer with the requisite staff for the investigation of the possibilities of irrigation in the said districts ?

A.—(a) A statement giving the information is laid on the table.^a

(b) It was the headquarters of a Superintending Engineer's circle. There is no proposal at present.

Irrigation panchayats in Bellary district.

261 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have formed two Irrigation panchayats in the district of Bellary—one for the 'Desanur channel' in the Bellary taluk and the other for the 'Ramasagaram channel' in the Hospet taluk; how long they have been working; whether the work to be attended to by them is clearly differentiated from the work to be carried on by the regular Public Works staff;

^a Printed as Appendix VII on pages 654-657 infra.

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(b) whether the said panchayats have been allotted any funds for carrying on their work; if so, how much in the case of each of the channels during the year 1924-25; whether it is sufficient for the upkeep of the channel;

(c) on what basis the grant is made to the panchayats for the maintenance of the channel;

(d) what staff, if any, is employed to work under them; whether they are allowed to entertain an overseer or a maistri under them; if not, how it is possible for them to prepare estimates and supervise the work of repair;

(e) whether the overseers in the Public Works or the Minor Irrigation departments are required or bound to help the panchayats in these matters;

(f) whether the overseers have been approached in this matter and they refused to have anything to do with the panchayats or to render them any help;

(g) whether these panchayats are allowed any amount by way of contingent charges, postage, stationery, etc.; and

(h) what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 220 I., dated 8th August 1923, which has been placed on Editors' Table. In July last the Collector of Bellary reported that the channels had been handed over to the panchayats.

(b) Yes. Annual grants of Rs. 616 for the Bella channel and Rs. 597 for the Desanur channel were sanctioned. The amounts are considered sufficient.

(c) The amounts represent the cost of maintenance, including cost of works establishment of the channels when under the management of the Public Works Department.

(d) The establishment considered necessary will be appointed by the panchayats.

(e) If any help is required, the panchayats can address the Collector or the Superintending Engineer.

(f) The Government have no information.

(g) The contingent charges can be met from the annual grants placed at the disposal of the panchayats.

(h) Does not arise.

Legislative.

Acoustic properties of the Council Hall.

262 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether, as a result of the recent arrangements and readjustments and hangings put up in the Council Hall, the acoustic properties of the House have improved;

(b) whether it is a fact that as a result of the green hangings the light within the hall has somewhat decreased; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the acoustics and the light within the hall and at what cost?

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- A.—(a) & (b) The result of the recent arrangements and readjustments of fittings and hangings are believed to be an improvement, so far as the acoustics of the hall are concerned.
(c) If the hon. Member has any suggestions to make, the Government will be glad to consider them.

Lunch arrangements for Members of the Council.

263 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to place before the House the recent proposals of the House Committee as to provision for lunch arrangements for Members of Council and the orders passed by Government on them?

- A.—The Government understand that the hon. the President has placed on the table of the House a statement showing the resolutions of the House Committee and the action taken on them. This will give the hon. Member the information desired by him.

Police.

Appointments in the selection grade in certain services.

264 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member, the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the principle on which the number of appointments in the selection grade was fixed for the following cadres and the percentage they bear to the total number of appointments in each of them:—

- (i) Imperial Judicial services,
- (ii) Imperial Police services,
- (iii) Provincial Police services,
- (iv) Provincial Judicial and Executive services, and
- (v) Survey; and

(b) if the percentages vary, the reasons for the variation?

- A.—(a) & (b) The number of appointments in the selection grade is fixed with reference to the special conditions of each service. The percentage of selection posts is given below:—

(i) Imperial judicial service	...	...	8
(ii) Imperial police service	...	...	4
(iii) Provincial police service	...	...	7
(iv) Provincial judicial and executive services	...	...	3
(v) Survey	...	...	17

Collectorates.

Increments to unpassed men in Government service.

265 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether unpassed men in all departments of Government services borne on the time-scale were allowed by Government the privilege of earning increments up to Rs. 50 without further exemption at the discretion of the appointing authorities;

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(b) if so, whether the Government will inquire and state—

(i) whether unpassed men in the Revenue Department of South Kanara district have been denied the privilege by the Board of Revenue though the increment was allowed to them by the District Collector, and

(ii) whether the increment earned and drawn by them from 1st April 1921 has been ordered to be recovered;

(c) how many clerks and other Government servants will suffer thereby and up to what amount;

(d) whether complaints have been made to local officers or to Government of the great hardship caused by the orders passed by the Board of Revenue; and

(e) what orders Government contemplate passing to remove the hardship?

A.—(a) No. Unpassed men who were specially exempted from the application of the Public Service notification were under the old graded scale eligible for promotion to higher grades and such men are also eligible for increments on the time-scale of pay that has been substituted for the graded scale; but unpassed men who were exempted only to the extent that they were permitted to draw the lowest grade of pay, namely Rs. 20, are not eligible, unless further exempted by competent authority, to draw more than the lowest pay on the time-scale, namely Rs. 35.

(b), (c), (d) & (e) From the answer to (a) it will be seen that no privilege was denied to any clerk. The Collector of South Kanara however misinterpreted the rule and allowed increments to clerks who had not been exempted by competent authority, and the Board of Revenue corrected his error. The cases of 28 clerks were in question. The Government is not aware whether any recovery was made. No representation on the subject has reached Government.

Provincial Civil Service.

The post of Inspector-General of Panchayats.

266 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government propose to make the appointment of Inspector-General of Panchayats permanent and if so, whether they will 'list' it as open to the officers of the Provincial Civil Service?

A.—The matter is under consideration.

Salt.

Road leading to the Rolland's Bridge, Tuticorin.

267 Q.—Rao Bahadur CRUZ FERNANDEZ: Will the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have passed orders to hand over the road leading from the Tuticorin municipal toll-gate to the Rolland's Bridge to the Salt department for its exclusive use;

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(b) whether such proposed transfer was made with the consent of the Tuticorin Taluk Board under whose control the said road had been since 1883 ;

(c) whether in view of the above Government Order, the Salt department now insists on closing the said road entirely for the public traffic without the consent of either the Tuticorin Taluk Board or the Tuticorin municipality ;

(d) whether the Government have received strong objections from the Tuticorin Taluk Board to the closing of the said road ;

(e) whether the Government are aware that such a closure will seriously affect the people of various villages such as Mullakadu, Muthayapuram, and Savaryapuram, etc., as the said road is the only way for them to Tuticorin ;

(f) whether the Tuticorin Taluk Board has represented to Government either directly or through the District Board of Tinnevely, the grievances of those villagers by depriving them of their right to use the said longstanding public pathway and protested against such a closure ;

(g) whether it is a fact that the Government have admitted in their correspondence Memorandum No. 509 S.R.I., dated 24th March 1924—the existence of the Tuticorin-Autoor road passing through the road proposed to be closed from time immemorial ;

(h) if the answer to question (g) be in the affirmative, the circumstances under which the Government have passed orders for the closing of the road all of a sudden without previous notice to the villagers whose interests are affected by the said closure and before providing another road equally convenient in its stead for their use ;

(i) whether the other route passing west to the salt factories is rendered unpassable during ten months in a year by the formation of a tank like pool on account of the diversion of Uppar Odai ;

(j) whether it is a fact that in view of the untold hardships which the public and the villagers will be put to by the sudden closure of the road running through the salt factories, the Tuticorin Taluk Board has, by its resolution No. 12, dated 25th September 1924, declined to reconsider its original resolution No. 42, dated 29th November 1923, and to withdraw its objections to the closure of the said road ; and

(k) whether, in view of the strong objections raised by the Tuticorin Taluk Board, the Government will reconsider the original order to close the road and allow the public to use the road running through the salt factories as usual ?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative. The Government have excluded the portion of the road in question from the operation of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) & (d) The answer is in the affirmative.

(e) The question implies that there is only one route between Tuticorin and the villages mentioned and that the Salt Department have blocked this only route. The original route to Tuticorin is not the road which has now been handed over to the Salt Department but the one running to the west of the Salt factories. Nor do the Government admit that the closure of the road now in question seriously affects the people of the villages.

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- (f) The answer is in the affirmative.
- (g) The answer is in the negative.
- (h) The question does not arise.
- (i) The answer is in the affirmative, but the same may be said of the road which has been taken over by the Salt Department.
- (j) It is true that the Tuticorin Taluk Board confirmed in its resolution, dated 25th September 1924, its former resolution, dated 29th November 1923, declining to withdraw its objections to the closure of the road but the Government are not aware that these resolutions were passed in view of any untold hardships to the general public or to villagers.
- (k) The answer is in the negative.

Secretariat.

Post of Under Secretary to Government, Local Self-Government Department.

268 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the post of Under Secretary to Government, Local Self-Government Department, was one reserved for the I.C.S., and whether when a provincial officer held that appointment he was drawing his grade pay plus Rs. 200 as allowance;

(b) whether it is a fact that the office of additional Assistant Secretary created in its place does not carry any allowance with it, and, if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) whether the post of a Deputy Secretary in the superior scale (I.C.S.) newly created has resulted;

(i) in the addition of two posts to the I.C.S., one in the superior scale (Deputy Secretary) and the other in the inferior scale; and

(ii) in the loss to the provincial service of an appointment of higher emoluments in the form of special pay of Rs. 200?

A.—(a) The post was not reserved for members of the I.C.S. A.P.C.S. officer holding the post would draw a duty pay of Rs. 200 per mensem.

(b) The post of Additional Assistant Secretary to Government, Local Self-Government Department, was not created in place of the post of Under Secretary. It is an appointment of a different class and does not carry any allowance with it.

(c) (i) Yes.

(ii) No.

Number of posts of Under Secretary to Government.

269 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of posts of Under Secretary to Government in March 1921 and now and the reasons for the variation, if any;

(b) when these posts ceased to be reserved for the Indian Civil Service and

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(c) the number of Provincial officers holding the posts of Under Secretary to Government at the end of 1921 and now and the reasons for the variation, if any?

A.—(a) & (c) The hon. Member is referred to the Civil Lists for March 1921 and January 1925 and to the answer to clause (b) of question No. 1412 given at the last Session of the Legislative Council.

(b) When the Government of India Act, 1919, became law.

Number of Deputy Secretaries to Government.

270 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Deputy Secretaries to Government in March 1921 and now;

(b) whether these posts are reserved for the Indian Civil Service and, if not, how many of them are listed as open to and held by the officers of the Provincial Civil Service; and

(c) how many of them have been newly created in the departments where the posts of Under Secretary or Assistant Secretary to Government were abolished?

A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to the Civil Lists for March 1921 and January 1925.

(b) The post of Deputy Secretary to Government is included in the third schedule to the Government of India Act. There is no listing of specific posts.

(c) When the post of Deputy Secretary, Finance, was created, an Additional Assistant Secretary's post was abolished. When the post of Deputy Secretary, Local Self-Government, was created, an Under Secretary's post was abolished.

Collectorates.

Eligibility of Secondary School-Leaving Certificate holders to posts in the superior service.

271 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether in the year 1920, the Board issued an order in B.P. No. 582-d, dated 27th February 1920, declaring that any Secondary School-Leaving Certificate holder who possessed a complete certificate was eligible for any post in the superior service and whether certificate was then considered to have been completed when the candidate therefor had appeared for the public examination and the marks obtained by him had been entered in the certificate by the Secretary of the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Board;

(b) whether on the strength of the said Board's Proceedings a number of Secondary School-Leaving Certificate holders joined service;

(c) whether in the year 1923, the Board of Revenue issued an order that only candidates who hold the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate declaring them eligible for the college course were qualified for the service

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and this order was also made applicable by the Board even to those who had entered service in former years; and whether the Board was justified in so giving it retrospective effect;

(d) what was the reason for the change of policy in the year 1923 and whether it has received the approval of the Government;

(e) whether the order of the Board issued in the year 1923 is opposed to the very object with which the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate system was instituted and the old Matriculation was abolished and whether or not by the passing of the said order they (Board) are now reviving the old Matriculation examination as the passport for public service; and

(f) whether the hon. Member proposes to rescind the order of the Board passed in the year 1923 and restore the one passed by it in the year 1920; whether he at any rate proposes to exempt from the operation of the latter order those entertained in the service between 1920 and 1923?

4.—(a) Such a remark was made in a Resolution of the Board of Revenue reviewing the half-yearly list of exemptions authorized by Collectors.

(b) As this resolution was not published, it can hardly be said that S.S.L.C. holders joined the service on the strength thereof; but it is possible that appointing officers made their selections less carefully in consequence.

(c) Yes. The Board's orders were not however retrospective in the sense that they affected men already confirmed in the Government service. They applied however to all acting men.

(d) Complaints were received by the Board of Revenue that a large number of the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate men recruited to the Taluk and Divisional Offices were far below the average and were of little or no use. In order to get men fit to do the work, the Board found it desirable to lay down a standard of recruitment. The Government have approved the principle embodied in the Board's order.

(e) The object and intention of the order is not as suggested.

(f) The hon. Member's attention is invited to G.O. No. 1343, Revenue, dated 3rd September 1924, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

Deputy Collectors

Number of selection grade posts reserved for Deputy Collectors.

272 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of posts in the selection grade reserved for Deputy Collectors;

(b) the number of Deputy Collectors in the selection grade who have not drawn the pay of the selection grade for over four years because of their acting continuously as Collectors or for any other reason; and

(c) if there are such officers who have not drawn selection grade pay,

(i) whether other officers were promoted to the selection grade in their places as in the case of Imperial Judicial and Police services, and, if not, the reasons for the omission; and

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(ii) whether the lien of such officers on their posts in the selection grade has been suspended under rule 13 of the Fundamental Rules, and, if not, why not?

A.—(a) Four.

(b) Two.

(c) (i) No. Acting promotion to the selection time-scale is not admissible under Fundamental Rule 30.

(ii) Suspension of their lien is inadmissible under Fundamental Rule 13 as they are only *acting* as collectors.

Famine.

Famine-relief.

273 Q.—MR. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether as contemplated in G.O. No. 978, Revenue, dated 22nd June 1923, spinning and carding were tested as measures of famine relief in 1924, and if so, where and with what result;

(b) whether it is still believed that without framing task tables this form of relief can be administered; and

(c) whether section 145 of Famine Code refers to gratuitous relief only?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Task tables cannot be framed until the system of relief is tried as an experiment in any famine area.

(c) Yes.

Land Revenue.

Interest on overpayments collected in the Tanjore district.

274 Q.—MR. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the overpayments that have been collected in the Tanjore district are allowed interest in favour of the landholder;

(b) whether the Account 14-C. referred to in Standing Order 37-A had been published for the several villages in the Tanjore district, and if so, the dates of publication for each taluk;

(c) whether portion of overpayments which ought to be treated as advance payments for the next year are appropriated towards interest which is made up in pursuance of the Collector's order; and

(d) whether such action is not contrary to the answer given to the question No. 191 on the 20th August 1924?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The account referred to as the 14-C. account is presumably the list of overpayments that cannot be adjusted but have to be refunded in cash. The Government presume that such lists have been published but have no positive information on this point.

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- (c) Overpayments are arrived at after deducting the amounts due to Government which include also interest where interest is charged.
- (d) No.

Land-cess in the case of minor inams in Bellary, etc.

275 Q.—MR. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether, with reference to question No. 717 put at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 13th October 1924 and the answer given to clause (iv), the Government have since called for information; whether land-cess in the case of minor inams in 'ryotwari' areas in the recently resettled districts of Bellary and Anantapur was calculated on the basis of the old or the new rates; if so, whether he will be pleased to lay it on the table?

A.—Land-cess on minor inams in ryotwari areas was calculated and collected on the basis of the resettlement rates.

Amount of fees collected for subdivision of land.

276 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR W. VIJAYARAGHAVA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the amount collected in each district in the shape of fees for subdivision of lands under G.O. No. 1649 Revenue, dated 8th November 1923, from the date of the order up to date; and

(b) the reasons for imposing this new fee?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 1649, Revenue, dated 8th November 1923, which was placed on the Council table on 14th October 1924.

Village Establishments.

Eligibility of karnams for elections in local bodies.

277 Q.—MR. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the karnams are ineligible for elections in the local bodies while the headmen are so eligible; and

(b) if so, what is the reason for this distinction and whether the Government propose to take away this disability of the karnams?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to sub-section (3) of section 47 and sub-section (2) of section 54 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920; also to sub-section (2) of section 48 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920. Karnams are not eligible for election to local boards.

(b) The basis of the distinction was that the pay of the village headman was regarded as an honorarium. The Government do not propose to remove the distinction.

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Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Percentage of collection to demand in the municipalities.

278 Q.—MR. V. PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the percentage of collection to demand in the municipalities of the province for every year since the introduction of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920;

(b) the percentage of collection to demand every year in those wards of several municipalities to which elections were held during 1922, 1923 and 1924;

(c) the percentage of collection to demand in each year for wards to which no election was held during the period mentioned in (b);

(d) the percentage of voters registered in the electoral rolls of non-elective wards in every municipality for 1922, 1923 and 1924 to the total number otherwise qualified to vote according to the provisions of the Municipal Act;

(e) the percentage of voters registered in the rolls of the elective wards in each municipality for the same period mentioned in (d) to the total number otherwise qualified to vote according to the provisions of the Act;

(f) whether there are municipalities in which municipal councillors have not paid their taxes as per sections 45 (c) and 46 of the Act, after taking seats and, if so, their number and percentage to the elective strength of the councils concerned;

(g) whether there are municipalities in which either the chairmen or vice-chairmen have been defaulters in payment of taxes after assuming charge of office, since the introduction of the Act;

(h) if the answer to (g) be in the affirmative, the names of such municipalities;

(i) whether there are municipalities in which names of persons in arrears of taxes had been included in the electoral rolls contrary to sections 45 (c) and 46 of the District Municipalities Act, 1920, and, if so, the total number in each municipality for every year since the introduction of the Act; and

(j) whether Government took or propose to take any action against the authorities concerned for such inclusion?

A.—(a) A statement is appended.^a

(b) to (e) The Government have no information.

(f) Yes. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to paragraph 22 of the consolidated Audit Report for 1921-22 in G.O. No. 487, Finance, dated 31st May 1923, and paragraph 17 of the same report for 1922-23 in G.O. No. 2769, L. & M., dated 4th October 1924, both of which have been placed on the Editors' Table. Particulars of individual councils are not available.

(g) & (h) The Government have no information.

(i) Vide answer to clause (f) above.

(j) Yes, whenever the matter came to notice, the Government have taken action against the persons responsible.

^a Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 657-658 infra.

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Maintenance and work of district boards and taluk boards.

279 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether opinion has been taken from the public as to the advisability of maintaining district boards and taluk boards as at present, as separate entities;

(b) whether the taluk boards are not enough to manage all the work even if the district boards are abolished; and

(c) whether taluk boards prepare their budgets independently of district boards and whether they get their grants directly from the Government?

A.—(a) & (b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to section 116 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, under which the budget of a taluk board shall be submitted to the district board and the district board can alter any part of the budget if it fails to provide for due discharge of all liabilities in respect of loans contracted by the taluk board or for the maintenance of a working balance. Government grants are now paid directly to the taluk boards.

Bridges and causeways in the Ceded districts, etc.

280 Q.—Mr. M. RATNASWAMI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) to what extent the roads of all kinds in the districts of Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur, North Arcot, Chittoor, Chingleput and South Arcot are provided with bridges or causeways over the chief rivers that flow through these districts; and

(b) what proportion of the nullahs in each of these districts are bridged?

A.—(a) The Government have no detailed information.

(b) The Government have no information.

Increased scale of salary for teachers of the Municipal High School, Bellary.

281 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the teachers of the Municipal High School, Bellary, recently sent up any mahazar to the Government for the grant of an increased scale of salaries and whether it was supported by the chairman of the municipality and the then District Educational Officer Mr. Ransford;

(b) whether any final orders have been passed thereon, if so, whether he will be pleased to lay them on the table;

(c) whether he proposes to comply with their request by sanctioning the increased scale;

(d) whether such increased scale has been sanctioned in the case of the Municipal High Schools at Cuddapah, Kurnool and Anantapur and it has been newly introduced in the Board High School at Harpanahalli in the Bellary district which was recently provincialized; if so, what the objection is to its introduction in the Bellary Municipal High School; and

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(e) whether it is a fact that the Government have recently abolished the grant of temporary allowances to the teachers of the said school which used to be paid for years owing to the increase in prices of food-stuffs; if so, the reasons for the abolition; whether the teachers are hard hit by the abolition and the hon. the Minister proposes to restore the allowances?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) & (c) The answer is in the affirmative; G.O. No. 2723, L. & M., dated 1st October 1924, is laid on the table.^a

(d) The scale of pay for a school is fixed according to all the circumstances of that school; the Government have sanctioned such scales of pay to the staff of the Bellary Municipal High school as in their opinion meet the requirements of that school.

(e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 2723, L. & M., dated 1st October 1924.

Alleged disallowance of funds sanctioned for flood relief, etc., by the Bellary and Adoni municipal councils.

282 Q.—MR. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Adoni municipal council recently sanctioned a sum of Rs. 100 out of its funds for the purpose of South Indian flood relief and a sum of Rs. 50 for the promotion of child-welfare in the district of Bellary;

(b) whether the Bellary municipal council similarly sanctioned certain sums for the same purposes; and

(c) whether the Collector of Bellary, Mr. A. C. Duff, disallowed the amounts sanctioned for the flood relief and allowed those sanctioned for the child-welfare in both cases; if so, what is the reason for the distinction drawn by the Collector and whether he proposes to restore the grants disallowed by the Collector?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information.

Qualifications of nominated members of the Bellary district board.

283 Q.—MR. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) who are the persons who have been within the last six months nominated as members of the district board and the municipal council of Bellary and what is their position in life and occupation and the caste or community to which they belong;

(b) whether any and which of them represent the 'minorities' and which of them are not likely to be returned by election;

(c) if any of them so nominated does not represent the 'minorities', what were the special reasons for nominating them;

(d) whether the Collector of Bellary consulted the chairman of the municipality in sending up his recommendations to the Government as to the persons to be nominated; if so, who were the persons recommended by the chairman;

(e) whether the Revenue Divisional Officer of Bellary was consulted in the same matter; if so, what are his recommendations;

^a Printed as Appendix IX on page 659 infra.

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(f) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Bellary, Mr. A. O. Duff, sought and acted on the advice in this matter of the Public Prosecutor, Mr. M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar, and submitted to the Government whatever names had been recommended to him by the said Public Prosecutor ;

(g) whether all the persons now nominated by the Government are the nominees of the said Public Prosecutor ; and

(h) if so, whether the action of the Collector is regular in having consulted Mr. Mudaliyar and acted on his advice ?

A.—(a) & (b)—

Name.	Position in life and occupation.	Community.
<i>Bellary District Board.</i>		
The hon. Saiyid Muhammad Padsha Sahib Bahadur.	Pleader and Member of the Council of State.	Muhammadian.
M.R.Ry. Vetti Ramappa Garu.	Cultivator ...	Adi-Dravida.
„ Vadra Erappa Garu.	Landlord ...	Non-Brahman Hindu Vadra.
„ D. Sadasiva Raju Garu.	Do. ...	Poligar (Boya).
„ K. Nettekallappa Garu.	Abkari contractor.	Ediga.
„ P. Haridoss Nayudu Garu.	High Court vakil.	Setti Baliya.
K. Abdul Hye Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C.	Merchant and contractor.	Muhammadian.
<i>Bellary Municipal Council.</i>		
The Rev. F. A. Stowell.	Principal, Wardlaw High School.	Christian.
M.R.Ry. Vadde Hulgappa Garu.	Contractor ...	Vaddai.
„ M. Jesraj Avargal.	Yarn merchant.	Marwari.
„ T. N. Vadivelu Achari Avargal.	Teacher, Wardlaw High School.	Viswakarma.
„ R. Annaswami Pillai Avargal.	Petty shop-keeper.	Adi-Dravida.
„ K. Bada Batcha Rao alias Dhondoji Rao Garu.	Toddy contractor.	Non-Brahman Hindu (Katika).

The Government are not in a position to say which of them are likely to be returned by election.

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- (c) The question does not arise.
- (d) to (h) The Government are not prepared to give any information on the subject.

The Vadrabanda kunta in Bellary.

284 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the *Vadrabanda kunta* is vested in the municipal council of Bellary under G.O. No. 755, Revenue, dated the 16th June 1884;

(b) whether the Collector of Bellary issued orders prohibiting the quarrying in the *kunta* by the municipality;

(c) whether the Collector of Bellary unjustifiably interfered with the long-standing enjoyment by the municipality of the *kunta* in question in a similar manner; and

(d) what action the hon. the Minister proposes to take in the matter?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative. Presumably the *Vadrabanda kunta* is the same as the *Oderbanda tank* referred to in the Government Order.

(b) & (c) The Government have no information.

(d) The Government do not propose to take any action.

Disputes between local bodies.

285 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) how many disputes have arisen to their knowledge between local bodies and how many of them have matured into suits since the beginning of the year 1920;

(b) whether the Government have attempted any arbitration in those disputes and suits and if so in how many; if not, why not; whether the Government have no power to interfere and prevent waste of public money by the local bodies concerned; and

(c) what are the suits filed since the year 1921 and what is the valuation of each of them?

A.—(a) & (c) Sixty-nine disputes arose between local bodies. But so far as Government are aware none matured into a suit.

(b) In five cases the Government did not interfere as they saw no need or sufficient justification for interference. Three cases are pending. In the other cases the Government either settled the disputes themselves under section 234 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, or directed the local bodies to settle the disputes by constituting joint committees under section 26 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and section 30 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920

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Medical.*Ayurvedic dispensaries opened by the local bodies.*

286 Q.—Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to furnish a list of Ayurvedic dispensaries opened by the local bodies in the Presidency and to state the amount of Government grant with regard to each said dispensary?

A.—The Government are not in possession of complete and up-to-date information regarding the Ayurvedic dispensaries opened by local bodies. It has been called for. No grant is paid from provincial funds for such dispensaries.

The B.Sc. Course in the Madras Medical College.

287 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the subjects taught for the B.Sc. course provided in the Madras Medical College and the number and the names of the professors who teach Chemistry, Physics, Meteorology, Bacteriology, Meat Inspection, Fever Hospitals, Sanitation and Sanitary Engineering together with their qualifications to teach the respective subjects; and

(b) the qualifications required for appointment to—

(1) The Board of Examiners in the Medical College,

(2) Examinerships for L.M.P., L.M.S., M.B., B.S. and B.Sc. respectively and whether there were any examiners last year who had no special training or special qualifications in the subjects for which they were appointed as examiners and if so, who they were?

A.—(a) & (b) Information has been called for.

Extension of medical relief in rural areas.

288 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) why in the scheme for the extension of medical relief in the rural areas published in G.O. No. 1522, P.H., in the *Port St. George Gazette*, dated 22nd October 1924, the proposed subsidy is confined to the encouragement of only private medical practitioners of the allopathic system and why it has not been extended to the Ayurvedic and Unani systems;

(b) why the opening of a large number of Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries is found impossible or impracticable;

(c) whether in the proposed scheme the medical practitioner settling down in villages will be allowed to entertain any staff at the expense of the Government, for instance, a compounder;

(d) whether the taluk boards have been consulted on the question of their bearing the cost of medicine in such cases and of their being entrusted with the actual working of the scheme; if not, why they were not consulted hitherto;

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(e) whether this scheme has been placed before the Standing Advisory Committee of the Legislative Council, Local Self-Government Department, and their approval has been taken thereto;

(f) how many taluk boards have hitherto expressed their consent to work the scheme and to bear the cost of medicine as proposed by Government; and

(g) whether the details of the scheme have been settled; the terms and conditions of the subsidy; the kind of establishment each medical practitioner is to maintain; and who should be treated as poor for the purpose of the scheme, to be entitled to treatment gratis?

A.—(a) & (b) The reason is, as stated in paragraph 2 of G.O. No. 1522, P.H., dated 22nd October 1924, the lack of a sufficient number of duly qualified and accredited practitioners of the indigenous systems of medicine.

(c) A qualified midwife alone can be employed, in which case an additional subsidy of Rs. 100 will be paid by the Government.

(d) The answer is in the affirmative.

(e) The answer is in the negative.

(f) 97.

(g) The details are given in G.O. No. 1522, P.H., dated 22nd October 1924, which was published in Part I-A of the *Port St. George Gazette*, dated the 28th October 1924 (Notification No. 1062).

Religious and Charitable Endowments.

Muslim trusts.

289 Q.—MR. MUHAMMAD MOOSA SAIT: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to give a list of Muslim trusts which are either managed by the Government or the trustees or the managers of which are appointed by Government Orders together with the names of the trustees of each trust, the object and the amount for which it was originally created and its present income?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 293 on the 20th August 1924. No further information is readily available.

List of charitable and religious endowments.

290 Q.—MR. P. PEDDIRAJU: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) if any lists of charitable and religious endowments have been prepared and received by the Government through the Board of Revenue; if not, whether the Government propose to issue instructions for the complete preparation of the lists; and

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(b) whether the Government will publish such lists for general information?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative. The Board when constituted will compile such a list.

(b) This does not arise.

Amending Bill to the Hindu Religious Endowments Act.

291 Q.—MR. C. RAMALINGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is under contemplation to amend the Religious Endowments Act recently enacted; and

(b) if so, when the amending Bill will be introduced?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the Press communiqué issued by Government on 30th January 1925.

Education.

Scholarships to Indian Christians in Arts colleges, etc.

292 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number and amount of scholarships and stipends granted to Indian Christians for education in Arts colleges, training schools and colleges and in technical schools and colleges in this Presidency and outside in 1923-24 and 1924-25; and

(b) whether, with reference to question No. 395 (page 407 of Proceedings, Volume XVI), the hon. the Minister will give the information as to the number of scholarships granted to Indian Christians by the departments of Industries and Fisheries in 1920-21, 1921-22, 1922-23, and also in 1923-24 and 1924-25?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) A statement showing the number of scholarships granted by the Industries Department to Indian Christians is appended.^a No scholarships are granted by the Fisheries Department.

Excise.

Toddy shop near a mosque, Kumbakonam.

293 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether in the South Sarangapani street, Kumbakonam, near a big mosque, there are a toddy shop and an arrack shop;

(b) whether the persons frequenting the shop are a source of annoyance to Mussalman ladies and gentlemen visiting the mosque; and

(c) whether the Government propose to take any steps to remove the said shops?

^a Printed as Appendix X on page 659 infra.

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- A.—(a) There is an arrack shop in the South Sarangapani street about 50 or 60 yards to the west of the mosque. There is no toddy shop in the same street, but there is one in a lane branching from it and about 50 or 60 yards away from the mosque.
- (b) No complaints have been received.
- (c) The matter has not come before the Government for consideration.

Agriculture.

The number of cattle for cultivation.

294 Q.—MR. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to furnish a statement showing—

- (a) the area of land tilled by a pair of plough cattle in a season in this Presidency;
- (b) the total number of bulls, bullocks and he-buffaloes;
- (c) number of cattle available after deducting 25 per cent as being old and unfit;
- (d) bulls employed in breeding;
- (e) bulls, bullocks and he-buffaloes employed in carting at the rate of two cattle for one cart;
- (f) number of cattle available for ploughing; and
- (g) the total acreage under cultivation?

- A.—(a) The area varies according as the land is wet or dry and according to the nature of the soil, the crop and the method of cultivation.
- (b) (c), (e) & (f) The hon. Member is referred to the statistics given at page 39 of the season and crop report for the year 1922-23.
- (d) The approximate number is 67,000.
- (g) The hon. Member is referred to page 13 of the season and crop report for 1922-23.

Co-operation.

Object and working of co-operative societies.

295 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether, the object of co-operative societies under Act II of 1912 being promotion of thrift and self-help among agriculturists, artisans and persons of limited means, it is a fact that there are several co-operative credit societies which have only encouraged a spirit of extravagance instead of thrift by means of loans easily obtained;
- (b) whether considerable amount of corruption and underhand influence are resorted to in order to induce directors of co-operative societies to favour particular applicants for loans and other aids; and
- (c) whether the authorities have enquired into these aspects of the working of co-operative societies and taken steps and if so what steps against the alleged abuses?

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Housing accommodation for labourers in the city.

252 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what steps Government have taken or propose to take for housing poorer working men in the Madras City and elsewhere, and to insist on owners of factories and mills providing sanitary houses for their labourers ;

(b) whether Government have in view any legislation to carry out these purposes ; and

(c) what measures Government are taking themselves or through local authorities to establish sanitary quarters ?

A.—(a) & (c) The Madras Town Planning Act, 1920, the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, confer adequate powers on local bodies to take action for housing workmen. As regards the depressed classes, the Government acquire lands for the provision of house-sites on the recommendation of the Labour Department. This department also attends to the sanitary improvement of the places inhabited by these classes. The Government sanctioned the construction of 200 houses for housing the labourers who lost their houses owing to incendiarism at Puliyanthope in the Madras City.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

Emigration.

Emigration of labourers to Assam.

253 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state how many labourers migrated to Assam and other places during the last occurrence of famine in Bellary district ?

A.—The Government have no information beyond that furnished in the answer to question No. 928 at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 16th October 1924.

Forests.

Grazing grounds in the Alur and Adoni taluks of Bellary district.

254 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Collector of Bellary has abolished any grazing grounds in the Alur and Adoni taluks of the Bellary district and assigned them on patta to the members of the depressed classes ; if so, in which place and to what extent ; and whether such an assignment is authorized or expedient ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the ' Sivoijama ' lands in the occupation of ryots for a long time in the same taluks have also been similarly assigned on ' pattas ' by the Collector to the depressed classes ; if so, whether the Collector's action is justifiable ;